



OFFICE OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE

(U) WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report 7 February - 11 March 2015

12 March 2015

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1. (U) Scope Note

(U) The Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) message provides info on piracy threats to, and criminal action against, merchant vessels worldwide in the last 30 days. This report is produced primarily to inform merchant mariners and naval forces.

2. (U) Summary

- A. (U) VIETNAM: On 11 March, robbers boarded an anchored bulk carrier in Vung Tau Anchorage.
- B. (U) COLOMBIA: On 10 March, Colombian Navy and police reported the seizure of 200 kilograms of cocaine on board the general cargo vessel MV CLARA E in Barranquilla.
- C. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 7 March, a suspected mother vessel disguised as a fishing vessel deployed six high speed skiffs which chased an underway bulk 18 nm north-northwest of Laparan Island.
- D. (U) ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES: On 6 March, robbers boarded a sailing vessel at the Tamarind Hotel, Canouan, Charlestown Bay.

3. (U) Counter-Piracy and Maritime Crime Announcements and Advisories

A. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Government of Japan convoy schedule for March 2015. To apply for JMSDF escort operation should visit http://www.mlit.go.jp/en/maritime/maritime_fr2_000000.html, please contact directly the Anti-Piracy Contact and Coordination Office, Maritime Bureau, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT), Japan: Tel: +81-3-5253-8932 Fax: +81-3-5253-1643 Email: INFO-PIRACY@mlit.go.jp. (MSCHOA)

B. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Korean Navy convoy schedule for March 2015. All merchant vessels wishing to join the convoy group must submit their application forms directly to the ROK naval warship carrying out the mission. The ROK MTG can be reached directly at INMARSAT: 870-773-110-528, Email: rokcheonghae@gmail.com. (MSCHOA)

C. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Chinese Navy convoy schedule for March 2015. For further information, please e-mail planavy@navy.mil.cn, or call Tel: 86 10 652 92221, Fax: 86 10 652 92245. (MSCHOA)

D. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Indian Navy convoy escort schedule for March 2015. To register, email antipiracyescort@dgshipping.com or visit www.dgshipping.com. Telephone numbers for contact are: 91-22-22614646 or fax at 91-22-22613636. (MSCHOA)

4. (U) Details: Monthly Incidents by Region

(U) This section lists reports of active violence against shipping, credible threats to shipping, or the potential for a situation to develop into a direct threat to shipping over the last 30 days. Designation of a high-threat area is based on an assessment of all-source information relating to the existence of, or potential for, piracy and other crime, terrorism, civil unrest, or low-intensity conflict. Every effort is made to ensure that incidents are not double-counted. In the event double-counting is detected, or an incident is later learned to be different than initially reported, an explanation of the cancellation of the inaccurate report will be made in at least one message prior to dropping the erroneous report.

A. (U) NORTH AMERICA: No current incidents to report.

B. (U) CENTRAL AMERICA - CARIBBEAN - SOUTH AMERICA:

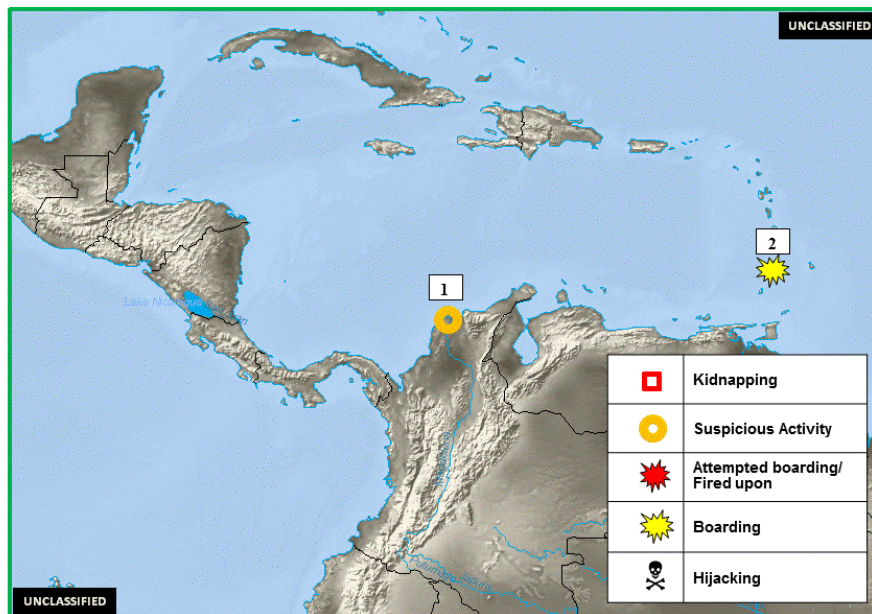


Figure 1. Central America – Caribbean – South America
Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) COLOMBIA: On 10 March, Colombian Navy and police reported the seizure of about 200 kilograms of cocaine on board the general cargo vessel MV CLARA E in Barranquilla. Seven crew, including one Nicaraguan and six Colombians, have been arrested for drug trafficking. (www.fleetmon.com)

2. (U) ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES: On 6 March, robbers boarded a sailing vessel through an open window. The robbers rummaged thru a money clip and purse and took \$400 cash while crew slept unaware on a windy, noisy night. Event reported to the local police. Event occurred at the Tamarind Hotel, Canouan, Charlestown Bay. (Noonsite)

3. (U) COLOMBIA: On 21 February, two men snuck into the rudder trunk of the anchored MT PRISCO ALEXANDRA near position 10:25 N - 075:33, W, Cartagena Anchorage. The men were discovered in the rudder

trunk space during a planned anti-stowaway/smuggling inspection by the crew and contracted divers after the vessel had completed cargo operations. The two men used diving equipment to gain access to the rudder trunk space after cutting through protective steel bars from outside the vessel. Colombian authorities were immediately notified, who found 102 kilograms of cocaine that had been smuggled into the rudder compartment by the men, who were then arrested and the cocaine impounded. (PRISCO Shipping Company)

4. (U) BRAZIL: On 15 February, several armed robbers boarded a sailing yacht near position 02:30 S - 044:19 W, at the Sao Luis Yacht Club in northeast Brazil. During the course of the robbery, the Dutch owner of the yacht was shot in the chest and died on the scene. His wife jumped overboard and escaped. The robbers left the yacht and have not been apprehended. (Noonsite)

C. (U) **ATLANTIC OCEAN AREA:** No current incidents to report.

D. (U) **NORTHERN EUROPE - BALTIC:** No current incidents to report.

E. (U) **MEDITERRANEAN - BLACK SEA:**

1. (U) ROMANIA: On 28 February, Romania's coast guard rescued 70 migrants, mostly Syrians and Iraqis, packed into a small fishing boat that was in danger of sinking as they attempted to make the crossing to Europe in stormy seas. The Turkey-flagged fishing vessel had sailed from Istanbul and was found in trouble about 10 miles from the Romanian coast. The boat was helped to safely dock at the port of Constanta, a coast guard spokesman said. (Reuters, www.worldbulletin.net)

F. (U) **WEST AFRICA:**

1. (U) NIGERIA: On 3 March, eight robbers boarded a berthed reefer ship near position 06:27 N - 003:22 E, Apapa Berth No.9, Lagos. Ship's security watch spotted the robbers and raised the alarm. Seeing the crew's alertness, the robbers escaped empty-handed. (IMB)

G. (U) **INDIAN OCEAN - EAST AFRICA:**

1. (U) On 25 February, Somali pirates released four Thai hostages after almost five years in captivity. The hostages were officially handed over to the Galmudug administration in the town of Gaalkacyo. The pirates captured the hostages from a fishing vessel in Somali waters. The hostages were handed over to the Galmudug administration, which had been negotiating with the pirates to secure the release of the captives. Journalists in Mudug region say that the captives were released after the ransom demanded by the pirates was paid. (UNITV, London-based Somali language media outlet)

H. (U) **ARABIAN GULF:** No current incidents to report.

I. (U) EAST ASIA - SOUTHEAST ASIA - INDIAN SUBCONTINENT:

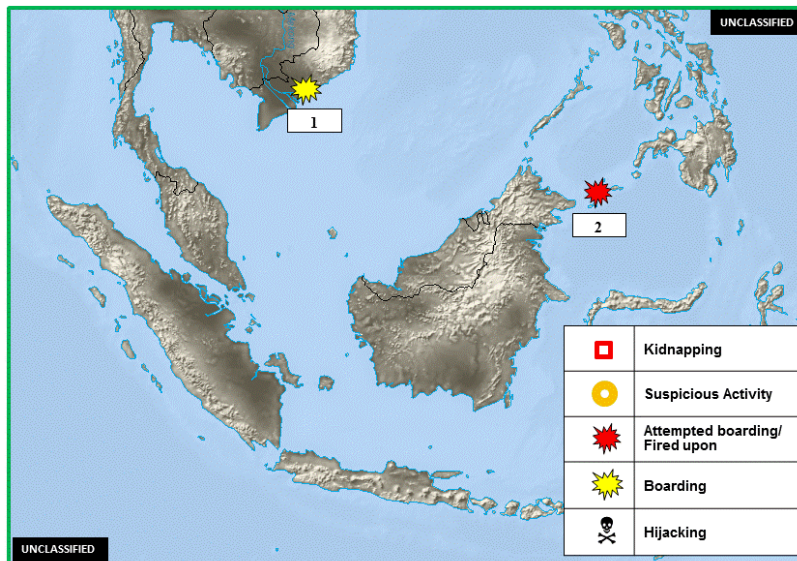


Figure 2. Southeast Asia - Indian Subcontinent
Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) VIETNAM: On 11 March, duty crewman onboard a bulk carrier anchored near position 10:15 N - 107:02 E, Vung Tau Anchorage, noticed robbers on deck. He informed the duty officer who raised the alarm and mustered the crew. The robbers managed to steal ship's stores and escape. No injury to crew. (IMB)

2. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 7 March, a suspected mother vessel disguised as a fishing vessel deployed six high speed skiffs which chased an underway bulk carrier near position 06:13 N - 119:50 E, 8 nm north-northwest of Laparan Island. The persons onboard the skiffs were wearing camouflage clothes circled around and attempted to board the ship. The ship's Master raised the alarm, activated the water spray system, increased speed and took evasive maneuvers. A security message was also continuously broadcasted via VHF channel 16. The ship also contacted Philippines Navy for assistance. Upon hearing the Philippines Navy's reply on the VHF channel, the skiffs aborted the attempted attack and moved away. (IMB)

3. (U) INDONESIA: On 3 March, six pirates attempted to board an anchored cargo ship near position 01:08 N - 103:55 E, vicinity of Cape Uncang, Batam Island. The robbers were spotted by an Indonesian Navy patrol boat and quickly apprehended. They were carrying two long knives and tools. (www.tnial.mil.id; www.batampos.co.id)

4. (U) INDONESIA: On 25 February, four robbers armed with long knives boarded an underway bulk carrier near position 01:04.4N - 103:36.4E, 5 nm southwest of Pulau Nipah. Duty Engineer noticed the robbers and informed the Duty Officer who raised the alarm, sent SSAS alert and mustered the crew. The robbers escaped upon hearing the alarm and seeing the crew's alertness. A search of the ship was carried out with generator spares reported stolen. When the ship arrived and dropped anchor at Singapore, police boarded for investigation. (IMB)

5. (U) INDONESIA: On 25 February, three robbers boarded an underway bulk carrier near position 01:08 N - 103:28 E, 3 nm east of Pulau Karimun Kecil. The alarm was raised and the crew mustered. Seeing the crew's response, the robbers escaped empty-handed. (IMB)

6. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 23 February, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) received information that a ship had run aground near Mati City, Davao Oriental. Personnel from the local Coast Guard Station and those from the local office of the Naval Intelligence Security Group proceeded to the location of the grounded ship on the morning of 24 February. Later that morning, the Philippine authorities verified that the grounded ship was MT REHOBOT, reported as hijacked on 28 January near Lembah Island, Sulawesi, Indonesia. (ReCAAP)

7. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 23 February, a Vietnam-flagged cargo vessel, MV AN BIEN 89 ALCI, was arrested near Pata Island, Sulu Province. Three other, smaller, vessels were also arrested on scene; and are believed to be from the Philippines. A military spokesperson stated that a total of 131,000 sacks of rice, weighing 25 kilograms each, were seized from the ships and totaled 3,275 metric tons. The spokesperson also said that several high-powered firearms consisting of seven M-14 rifles and five M-16 rifles, including two with attached M-203 grenade launchers were also seized in this operation. (www.sunstar.com.ph; www.philstar.com)

8. (U) MALAYSIA: On 20 February, seven pirates armed with guns and knives hijacked the product tanker MT PHUBAI PATTRA 1 near position 02:08 N - 104:39 E, 18 nm southeast of Pulau Aur. The crew was taken hostage. The pirates transferred part of the cargo of gasoline into another vessel. The pirates then stole crew property and valuables, along with ship's cash and escaped early on the morning of 21 February. All crew is safe. (IMB, www.maritimesecuritynews.wordpress.com)

9. (U) BANGLADESH: On 15 February, pirates attacked up to seven fishing boats while they were operating about 50 km south from Sonar Char area. The pirates attacked three fishing boats, initially, when four other boats came to the aid of the other fishing boats and were also attacked. It is believed that at least 8 fishermen suffered gunshot-related injuries during the attack. The pirates were able to steal fish, fuel, money and mobile phones from the fishermen. The injured have been taken to a regional medical facility for treatment. (www.thefinancialexpress-bd.com; www.thedailystar.net)

10. (U) INDONESIA: On 14 February, ten robbers armed with knives boarded a berthed bulk carrier near position 03:47 N - 098:41 E, Berth 107, Belawan Port. When the duty crewman spotted the robbers, the alarm was raised and the robbers fled with cargo from the ship. Local authorities later boarded the vessel for an inspection. (IMB)

11. (U) VIETNAM: On 14 February, five robbers boarded an anchored vessel near position 20:36.9N - 106:51.3E, Haiphong OPL Anchorage. When the duty crewman on routine rounds saw the robbers on the forecastle deck, he raised the alarm and the crew mustered. Upon hearing the alarm and seeing the crew's response, the robbers escaped in their wooden motor boat. An investigation by the crew revealed that the paint store door was damaged and ship's stores stolen. The incident was reported to Port Control via VHF channel 16. (IMB)

12. (U) MALACCA STRAIT: On 13 February, six to eight robbers, armed with pistols and knives hijacked MT LAPIN from a small boat near position 03:11 N - 100:43 E, approximately 40 nm west-southwest of Port Klang, Malaysia. The perpetrators gathered the crew and took control of the tanker. Later an unknown vessel came alongside LAPIN and siphoned a total of five tons of diesel and 2,000 tons of bunker oil from the ship. After the pirates had siphoned the fuel and oil, they destroyed the communication devices onboard the ship and stole ship's property and crew's belongings. The perpetrators also tied the crew, and informed them that an improvised explosive package was left onboard and threatened the crew not to move, before they escaped. The crew managed to free themselves and obtained assistance from a passing ship, where they informed authorities of the incident. Further investigation by Thai authorities found that the alleged bomb onboard the ship was a fake. (IMB, ReCAAP, www.worldmaritimenews.com, www.vesselfinder.com)

13. (U) MALAYSIA: On 12 February, police seized five rifles and hundreds of bullets from the sailing yacht CRESCENT, berthed in Langkawi and owned by a South African man who has since gone missing. State Police Chief Datuk Zamri Yahya said three telescopic sights and silencers were also recovered from the yacht. The sailboat was reportedly left at the Rebak Marina jetty last August by its owner. He said all the firearms, ammunition and equipment were hidden in a bedroom at the rear of the boat. Police are also investigating whether there is a link between this seizure and that of two previous cases, in which 23 firearms and thousands of bullets were seized from foreign-registered boats in Langkawi last September. The police chief stated that the owners of the boats in the previous cases were also South Africans. (New Straits Times Press (Malaysia); www.thestar.com.my)

14. (U) INDONESIA: On 12 February, two robbers boarded an anchored bulk carrier using hooks attached with ropes near position 03:41 S - 114:28 E, Taboneo Anchorage. When the duty crewman spotted the robbers, the alarm was raised and the crew was mustered. Seeing the crew's response, the robbers escaped in their boat. Upon investigation, it was found that two padlocks were broken, but nothing stolen. (IMB)

15. (U) VIETNAM: .On 12 February, five robbers armed with knives boarded an anchored bulk carrier near position

20:41 N - 107:12 E, Hongai Outer Anchorage. When the Duty Officer saw movement on the forecastle, he instructed the duty crewman to check the area. When the crewman arrived at the forecastle, he saw the robbers escaping in a small boat. The crew discovered that ship's stores and property were stolen by the robbers. (IMB)

16. (U) VIETNAM: On 10 February, a deck watchman on routine rounds aboard a berthed container ship near position 20:52 N - 106:40 E, Nam Hai Container Terminal, Haiphong saw two robbers near the forward store room and alerted the Duty Officer and local police officers aboard the vessel. Alarm was raised and the ship was searched. The robbers were able to escape and a search of the vessel revealed the theft of items from the store room. (IMB)

J. (U) **NORTH ASIA:** No current incidents to report.

K. (U) **PACIFIC OCEAN - SOUTHERN OCEAN:** No current incidents to report.

5. (U) Appendix A: Further Contact Information and Resources

(U) This appendix provides contact information for the author of the WTS as well as other entities that can be contacted with maritime crime reports. It also lists other resources where the WTS is posted and where piracy and maritime crime incident information can be found.

(U) Contact

(U) Originator of this WTS report requests consumer feedback. Originator will incorporate all anti-shipping events and violence against the maritime industry into this weekly message where appropriate. To aid in our reporting, please add the Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI) to your normal corporate and organizational reporting requirements. The 24-hour watch can be reached at +1 (301) 669-4053.

(U) Other Resources

(U) This Worldwide Threat to Shipping Report is posted at the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency's Maritime Safety site: <http://msi.nga.mil/NGAPortal/MSI.portal>. The International Maritime Bureau (IMB) also publishes a live piracy report based on reporting from the IMB Piracy Reporting Centre in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, listing all piracy and armed robbery incidents in the last ten days: <http://www.icc-ccs.org/>. The PAWW and WTS Reports are posted weekly on the ONI Intel Portal: http://www.oni.navy.mil/Intelligence_Community/piracy.htm.

6. (U) Appendix B: Terminology and References

(U) This appendix is provided to promote consistent use of accurate terms of reference in reporting and also identifies those references that were used to gather the information contained in this report. ONI welcomes comment and suggestions for addition or amendment.

(U) Terminology

(U) In order to promote consistent use of accurate terms of reference, the following have been adopted to describe the range of criminal anti-shipping activity and impediments to safe navigation in our worldwide reporting and analysis. Please note that these terms relate to observable activity and are independent of target vessel status and exclude actions by governmental powers in lawful pursuit of their authorities:

- **(U) Attempted Boarding** – Close approach or hull-to-hull contact with report that boarding paraphernalia were employed or visible in the approaching boat.
- **(U) Blocking** – Hampering safe navigation, docking, or undocking of a vessel as a means of protest.
- **(U) Boarding** – Unauthorized boarding of a vessel by persons not part of its complement without successfully taking control of the vessel.
- **(U) Firing Upon** – Weapons discharged at or toward a vessel.

- **(U) Hijacking** – Unauthorized seizure and retention of a vessel by persons not part of its complement.
- **(U) Kidnapping** – Unauthorized forcible removal of persons belonging to the vessel from it.
- **(U) Robbery** – Theft from a vessel or from persons aboard the vessel.
- **(U) Suspicious Approach** – All other unexplained close proximity of an unknown vessel.

(U) Sourcing

(U) ONI derives information in this report from direct reporting and analysis of reports from the following agencies and commercial sources.

- Agence France Presse (AFP)
- Associated Press (AP)
- BBC News (BBC)
- Baltic and International Maritime Council (BIMCO), Denmark (BIMCO)
- Bloomberg
- EU Naval Forces (EU)
- Fairplay (FP), London
- International Maritime Bureau (IMB), London and Kuala Lumpur
- International Maritime Organization (IMO), London
- Informa Group (INFO)
- Latitude38.com (LAT), website
- Lloyd's List (LL), daily, London
- Local media (LM)
- LSS-SAPU.com (LSS)
- Maritime Administration (MARAD), US
- Maritime Security Council (MSC), US
- Maritime Security Centre – Horn of Africa (MSCHOA), Northwood
- Maritime Trade Information Sharing Centre – Gulf of Guinea (MTISC-GOG)
- MaRisk by Risk Intelligence (Risk Intelligence/MaRisk)
- NASDAQ.COM
- National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), Navigation Safety System
- Noonsite.com (Noonsite), website
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization Shipping Center (NSC), Brussels
- Oceanuslive.org (OCL), website
- Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI) (analysis and comment)
- Operator (owner or operator of affected vessel)
- Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC), US
- Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia, Information Sharing Center (ReCAAP ISC)
- Reuters.com (Reuters)
- Royal Australian Navy (RAN)
- Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN)
- Secure Anchorage Area West Africa (SAA)
- Seafarers' Assistance Program (SAP), Kenya
- Tradewinds (TW)
- United Kingdom Maritime Trade Organization (UKMTO)
- United Press International (UPI)
- United States Coast Guard (USCG)
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
- U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)

- U.S. Maritime Liaison Office (MARLO) Bahrain
- U.S. Department of State (DOS)
- U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT)

(U) ICOD: 11 March 2015